Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Reed Whittemore Presents Evening of Comic and Satiric Literature

Poet Reed Whittemore will present "Surly Verses for the Holidays, from D. H. Lawrence to e. e. cummings and Far Beyond," an evening devoted to comic and satiric literature, at the Library of Congress, 6 p.m., on Thursday, December 7. The program of readings is sponsored by the Gertrude Clarke Whittall Poetry and Literature Fund and will take place in the Montpelier Room on the sixth floor of the Madison Building. Tickets are not required.

Reed Whittemore, who was Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress in 1964–65 and served as Interim Consultant in Poetry for the term of Robert Fitzgerald (1984–85), was born in New Haven, Conn. He was educated at Yale University, from which he received his B.A. degree in 1941, and at Princeton University. From 1941 to 1945 he served in the U.S. Army Air Force. Professor of English at the University of Maryland beginning in 1968 and Professor Emeritus there since his 1984 retirement, he has also taught at Carleton College and was Bain-Swiggett Lecturer in English at Princeton University.

Mr. Whittemore was a founding editor of the literary quarterlies *Furioso* (1939–53) and *Carleton Miscellany* (1960–64), and literary editor of *The New Republic* (1969–74). He is now editor of the journal of translations, *Delos*.

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Whittemore *(Cont. from p. 425)*

Mr. Whittemore is the author of several collections of poems, including *The Self-Made Man, and Other Poems* (1959); *Poems, New and Selected* (1967); *Fifty Poems Fifty* (1970); and *The Mother's Breast and the Father's House* (1974). Mr. Whittemore's most recent collection of poetry, *The Feel of Rock,* was published by Dryad Press in 1982. He has also written several works of criticism; his two most recent books are collections of essays about biography, *Pure Lives* (1988) and *Whole Lives* (1989), both published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

He is a recipient of the Harriet Monroe Memorial Prize of *Poetry* magazine (1954), the Emily Clark Balch Prize of *Virginia Quarterly Review* (1962), a National Endowment for the Arts grant (1968–69), a National Council on the Arts Award for lifelong contribution to American letters (1969), and an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award of Merit Medal (1970).

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Bruce Tapper, Editor

New Book to Benefit Year of the Young Reader

Slowly my eyes rode across the lines of print and the New World smiled. . . The door opened and without hesitation I walked through.

Thus M.F.K. Fisher describes her first brush with the printed word in *The Open Door: When Writers First Learned to Read,* a collection gathered by Steven Gilbar and just published by David R. Godine, Publisher, Inc., in association with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

Ms. Fisher is one of 29 writers who describe their discovery of books and reading. Masters such as Winston Churchill and Charles Dickens are included, as are less familiar writers such as William Cobbett, Jean Rhys, Richard Rodriguez, and Paule Marshall. Other contributors include Annie Dillard, John Steinbeck, Richard Wright, Eudora Welty, and Harper Lee.

First Lady Barbara Bush, honorary chair of the Year of the Young Reader campaign, wrote the preface and John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, contributed the afterword.

The Open Door, which is illustrated with black and white photographs of the writers, has been published as a Year of the Young Reader project.

Compiler Steven Gilbar, a lawyer in Santa Barbara, Calif., and the author of *The Book* (St. Martin's Press, 1981) and *Good Books* (Ticknor and Fields, 1982), is donating his royalties to the Center for the Book to support the Year of the Young Reader campaign.

The book jacket features "The Book," a silkscreen printed by Will Barnet from the Fine Print Collection of the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress.

The Open Door: When Writers First Learned to Read, a 128-page book, is available in bookstores and in the Library of Congress Sales Shop. The price is $14.95.

Contract Administration Is Focus of FLICC Lunchtime Programs

The Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) Education Working Group has announced that the next program in its series of brown bag lunches on contract administration has been scheduled for January 23, 1990, and will feature Sarah Kadec of Kadec Information Management Services.

The meeting is the fourth in a series of informal sessions that examine the complexities of contract administration in the Federal government through the eyes of experts in the contracting field. Topics covered by the series so far have included: contracting for services and products in national and international arenas; contracting from the perspective of the private-sector; and how contract librarians view their roles.

The dates and topics of future lectures will be announced.

The sessions are scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Dining Room A of the James Madison Memorial Building of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

The programs are free, but seating is limited. Reservations may be made by calling the FLICC office at (202) 707-6454. Participants are invited to bring their own lunches and beverages to the program; coffee will be provided.

Juan Bosch of the Dominican Republic Appears at the Library of Congress

Dolores Martin, Hispanic Division (left); Juan Bosch; and Magda Moyano, assistant head, U.N. Mission, Lima, Peru.

The Inter-American Council of Washington, D.C., in collaboration with the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress, held a luncheon meeting on October 4 featuring noted short-story writer and essayist Juan Bosch from the Dominican Republic. Mr. Bosch is also a former president and current presidential candidate of his country.

The luncheon was attended by members of the academic community, the diplomatic corps, congressional staff, and Latin Americanists from various Federal agencies. Mr. Bosch discussed current problems in the Caribbean. The following day, Mr. Bosch recorded three stories for the Library's Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape.

Library Issues Country Studies on Panama, Commonwealth Caribbean

The Library of Congress Federal Research Division has issued the latest two volumes in a series of country studies under an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Army. The books, entitled *Panama: A Country Study* and *Islands of the Commonwealth Caribbean: A Regional Study*, were edited jointly by Sandra W. Meditz and Dennis M. Hanratty of the Federal Research Division.

The series consists of more than 100 titles and covers approximately 143 sovereign states and 15 dependencies. A typical book in the series, intended as an introduction to an individual country, contains five chapters describing and analyzing its history, society, economy, government and politics, and national security. By contrast, the nearly 800-page regional study on the Islands of the Commonwealth Caribbean offers a

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Mavis Gallant Reads For Library's Archive of World Literature on Tape

Mavis Gallant, novelist, playwright, essayist, and short story writer, read "The Chosen Husband," for the Archive of World Literature on Tape at the Library of Congress on September 29. The story was originally published in the *New Yorker* magazine in 1985.

Born into an English-Canadian family in Montreal, Ms. Gallant has lived in Paris, France, for nearly 40 years. Before leaving Canada in 1950 she wrote six years for the *Montreal Standard*. She devoted herself more to writing fiction after she moved to Europe and has excelled in the genre of the short story. She has been a regular contributor to the *New Yorker* since 1951, and her stories have been collected in a number of books, including *The Other Paris*, *The Pegnitz Junction*, and *Overhead in a Balloon*. Her recently acclaimed *Paris Notebooks* is a collection of her essays and reviews which show her to be an acute observer of contemporary French society as well as a reviewer of books about European writers and cultural figures. Her book reviews are published mainly in the *New York Times Book Review*.

A keen observer of details, Ms. Gallant draws her readers into her fictional characters' complex relations with their social, political, and historical contexts. Among her recurrent themes is the difficulty of individuals living in an alien culture. Her portrayal of the interplay between the social manners and psychological workings of Europeans and North Americans has prompted comparisons between her and Henry James.

In 1981 Mavis Gallant received the Canadian Governor General's Award for *Home Truths: Selected Canadian Stories* and the Order of Canada for her contribution to Canadian letters. This year she was

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Gallant *(Cont. from p. 427)*
inducted into both the Royal Society of Literature of the United Kingdom and the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

–Carol Armbruster

Panama *(Cont. from p. 427)*
historical overview of the region and an analysis of strategic and regional security issues as well as coverage of the geography, population, education, health and welfare, economy, politics and government, foreign policy, and national security of ten island nations and five dependencies that once formed a major portion of the British Empire in the Caribbean. The book also contains appendixes discussing the Commonwealth of Nations, Caribbean Community and Common Market, and Caribbean Basin Initiative. All books in the series are hardbound and contain maps, charts, photographs, tables, chapter bibliographies, a glossary, and an index.

The books in the series are used for a wide range of purposes, including training programs for government and military personnel and for college classes on comparative government and international relations. During the past several years, approximately one million copies of the books in the series have been sold, and more than 150,000 copies have been distributed to depository libraries throughout the United States.

Previously in 1988 and 1989, the Library published books in this series on China, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Iran, Lebanon, Libya, Syria, Thailand, and Turkey. New editions due out later in 1989 and 1990 include Angola, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, El Salvador, Finland, Hungary, Iraq, Israel, Mauritania, Mongolia, Paraguay, Romania, the Soviet Union, Spain, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. These are among the many titles in the Country Studies/Area Handbook series, for which the Library's Federal Research Division took over responsibility in mid-1986 from the American University Foreign Area Studies program.

A list of books in print in the series is available from the Country Studies Program, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540. To purchase the books on Panama and the Islands of the Commonwealth Caribbean, write the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Titles and stock numbers must be cited when ordering (*Panama*–$17, stock number 008-020-01170-3; *Islands of the Commonwealth Caribbean*–$30, stock number 008-020-01176-2). Include check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents.

Library Receives List of Universities' Japanese Periodicals

The Library of Congress has received the *Union List of Japanese Periodicals in the East Asian Libraries of Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, and Yale Universities*, 2nd edition.

A printed version of an online catalog, this volume is an updated edition of the union list compiled and published by the four libraries in 1985.

Included are trade periodicals and non-trade academic journals published in Japan in the fields of the humanities and social sciences; not covered are periodicals in the fields of science and technology.

The new and enlarged edition contains entries for 2,286 titles. Entries are arranged alphabetically by romanized title, followed by the title in Japanese script (and the title in English, if it appears in the periodical). Each entry also includes the place of publication, frequency, and the holdings of each library, identified by standard National Union Catalog symbols.

This latest union list was computer-prepared at Princeton University from an online catalog of Japanese serials holdings developed with support from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, a U.S. government foundation. It joins two other regional consortium union lists, also prepared with Friendship Commission support, in providing scholars and the general public with bibliographic and location information for a wide range of Japanese-language periodicals found in the major academic East Asian libraries in the United States and Canada. The two other lists are: *Union List of Current Japanese-Language Journals in East Asian Libraries in the Midwest* and *Union List of Current Japanese Serials in Six East Asian Libraries of Western North America.*

The Library of Congress observes
TWO HUNDRED YEARS
Congress

Congress Bicentennial Programs

Exhibition

"Public Property: Images of American Government" is a small exhibit drawn from the Library's vast collections of American images. It focuses on government as conveyed in American prints, drawings, and architecture.

Oval Gallery, Madison Building.

The exhibition runs through March 25.

STAFF NEWS

Elena G. Millie: Curator of the Library's Poster Collection

The Library of Congress' poster collection is the world's most comprehensive. There are some 80,000 posters in the fields of theater, travel, politics, and commerce illustrating social, cultural, and political trends of the past. Elena G. Millie is the curator who oversees and researches this vast collection.

Ms. Millie holds a bachelor's degree in art history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she also did graduate work in graphic arts. She has been listed in *Who's Who in American Art*. When she came to the Library of Congress in 1965 as a library technician in the Prints and Photographs Division, she brought to the job a strong background in graphics and printmaking.

For a month, Ms. Millie cataloged historical prints. Then the curator of the poster collection left the Library to go back to school, and Ms. Millie was hired to succeed her. The collection has been in her care ever since.

Working on exhibitions and acquisitions are Elena Millie's favorite curatorial tasks. Posters from the collection are exhibited at the Library about every two years. The most recent exhibition was a display of 19th-century American book and magazine posters in the reception area of the office of the Librarian of Congress.

Acquisitions to the collections are constantly being made through copyright deposits, gifts, exchange programs with other institutions or collectors, and a small number of purchases. Ms. Millie attends major design competitions and selects the leading award-winners in graphic design for the collection.

Elena Millie displays a poster by Jean de Paleoloque, advertising one of the first copy machines (c. 1895).

"I look for artists who are superior designers, and who have made a credible name for themselves. I look for posters that demonstrate excellence in graphic design. But I also try to include major political movements, such as the peace and anti-Vietnam movements of the 1960s, and more recently the anti-apartheid, war on drugs, AIDS education, and anti-nuclear-power movements. I also include posters on major films and from elections."

One of her most interesting experiences in acquisitions occurred at a major exhibition in Washington.

"I sought out the curator of the exhibit to discuss the significance of political propaganda posters. This curator later put me in touch with a collector of political propaganda posters who donated approximately 6,000 political propaganda posters to the Library." That acquisition—the Yanker Collection—is one of the most significant collections of political propaganda art from the 1965–1985 period.

Approximately 3,700 posters from the Yanker Collection were included in the Library's first experimental

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STAFF NEWS

18th Annual Employees' Art Exhibit Opens with Reception on December 8

A sampling of exhibit items includes works by: (back row, from left) Judith Reid, Marion Davis, and Kenneth Schaaf; (center row, from left) Marion Davis, Manae Fujishiro, and Mary Ginevra; and (front, both objects) Natalie Gawdiak.

Library of Congress staff members and their guests are invited to attend the opening night reception for the 18th Annual Employees' Art Exhibit on Friday, December 8, from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. in the Mumford Room on the sixth floor of the Madison Building.

The reception, cosponsored by the Library of Congress Professional Association and the Welfare and Recreation Association Cooking Club, will feature music by harpist Nanette Gibbs and refreshments. Tom Green, professor of fine arts at the Corcoran School of Arts, will speak at 5:30 p.m.

More than 80 works of art make this year's employee art show one of the largest since its inception in 1970. Sponsored annually by the Library of Congress Professional Association, the show is mounted by the Library's Exhibits Office in the red/blue corridor on the sixth floor of the Madison Building, and remains on display until mid-February. Works include watercolors, oils and acrylics, pen-and-ink drawings, photography, crafts, and sculpture created by staff members from all parts of the Library.

For additional information, contact exhibit coordinator Pat Alexiou, ext. 77906.

Millie *(Cont. from p. 429)*
optical disk program, a process that locates and displays thousands of visual materials through a linked computer index and video monitor. Ms. Millie won an award for her work with the Optical Disk Pilot Program in 1987.

Many scholars and researchers visit the poster collection annually. Ms. Millie cited the recent example of a writer who performed extensive research for a book on early film posters using the collection. Ms. Millie herself is now working on a booklet about the French World War I posters in the collection which will also serve as a checklist for researchers. She has written numerous articles about posters for various art publications.

The poster movement flourished with art nouveau—the fluid, organic style popular in the late 19th century. "The art nouveau poster had a very distinct design style," said Ms. Millie, who named the period her favorite in poster history. It was the style used by the "father of the poster," Jules Cheret, who had earlier experimented with the process of color lithography. He used the technique in France to produce advertising for restaurants and various products. His work inspired other French artists, such as Theophile Alexandra Steinlen, Pierre Bonnard, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, to try their hand at designing posters. These posters influenced artists in other countries to explore this new art form.

Since that time the poster has gone through many changes. "Today," said Ms. Millie, "posters are less hand-crafted. There is also more use of photography, which began appearing in posters in the late 1920s."

The oldest American poster in the Library's collection is an 1848 campaign poster for Democratic nominee Zachary Taylor, a five-color woodcut engraving by Thomas W. Strong. The oldest foreign poster in the collection is a French book poster depicting Don Quixote, designed in 1836 by Tony Johannot.

Ms. Millie noted that the foreign posters differ from American posters in both their design and in the way they are used. "Foreign posters have

STAFF NEWS

simple and direct messages that can be seen and understood from afar, whereas American posters contain much more text. The foreign poster is still used outdoors while the American poster is now mainly used indoors."

The Library's poster collection grew due to congressional legislation passed in 1870 that made the Library of Congress the depository for all materials copyrighted in the United States. With the continuing popularity of posters as an advertising medium, the collection is now augmented by more than 1,200 posters annually.

The future of the poster collection looks bright as interest in posters continues to grow. "Today, people realize the poster is an art form, as are paintings or fine prints," said Ms. Millie. "More importantly, posters are a significant part of our history as mirrors of our past. They reflect subtle changes in our society, politically and culturally."

–Kristin Nolen

Robert C. Gooch Dies

Robert C. Gooch, 90, retired director of the former Administrative Department, died on August 23 at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Md. He retired from the Library of Congress in 1966 after 48 years of Federal service.

Mr. Gooch first came to the Library in 1913, when he was a freshman at McKinley Technical High School, to be a summer employee in the Card Division. He had summer jobs at the Library and other government agencies until he finished his schooling at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1920. That year he was appointed a member of the reference staff at the Central Desk in the Library's Main Reading Room.

In 1930, Mr. Gooch left the Library to serve as supervisor of the library of the U.S. Senate. He returned in 1937 as joint custodian of the Library's Congressional Reading Room. He went on to serve as assistant superintendent (1940–41) and superintendent (1941–44) of the Reading Rooms; chief of the General Reference and Bibliography Division (1944–50); assistant and then associate director of the Reference Department (1950–53); and finally director of the Administrative Department.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth French Gooch.

Murray Association Awards Scholarships

Scholarship winners Carolyn Andrews (left), Ernestine Cade, and Corrine Harried; Debra Newman-Ham, Murray Association president; and Ardie Myers, Murray Scholarship Committee member.

The Daniel A.P. Murray Afro-American Culture Association has awarded scholarships for the 1989–1990 academic year.

Awards were made to three Library staff members during ceremonies in October commemorating the association's tenth anniversary. The winners were selected based on academic excellence and the relevance of their field of study to the goals of the association.

This year's recipients were: Carolyn Andrews, editorial assistant, Catalog Management and Publication Division; Ernestine Cade, cataloging support specialist, Copyright Cataloging Division; and Corrine Harried, procurement assistant, National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

The scholarships are awarded annually in honor of Sylvia Lyons Render, former Afro-American specialist in the Manuscript Division, and founder and first president of the association.

Meetings and Events Around the Library

Tuesday, December 12

☐ "Cool Yule: Holiday Jazz Recordings," Larry Applebaum, Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. LC Professional Association (LCPA). Pickford Theater, 12:10

☐ "Report on the Rio de Janeiro Field Office" (with slides), Frederic P. Protopappas, Overseas Operations Division. LCPA. Room LM 654E, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 13

☐ "Tertulia del Recuerdo: Reminiscences of Cuban Culture (1933–58)," Roberto Esquenazi-Mayo, professor, Georgetown University, and Ernesto Ardura, author and journalist. Sponsored by the Library of Congress Hispanic Cultural Society. West Dining Room, 12 noon.

Thursday, December 14

☐ "Black Rovers on the Chesapeake: African-American Pirates, Loyalists, and Seafaring Refugees, 1756–1807," Donald Shomette, visual information specialist, Printing and Processing Section. LCPA. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m.

☐ "Christmas is a Time for Singing," WRA Choral Society concert. Mumford Room, 12 noon.

Tuesday, December 19

☐ "Eighteenth Annual Christmas Concert," The Library of Congress Chorale. Upper Gallery, Great Hall, 12 noon.

Wednesday, December 20

☐ Annual Carol Sing, Great Hall, 11 a.m.

Thursday, December 21

☐ "An Open Forum to Discuss the Formation of a New Literature Forum: Bring Your Ideas," Rob Shields, senior reference librarian, Rare Book. LCPA. Dining Room A, 12:10 p.m.

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